

JULIAN HAWTHORNE'S STRONG APPEAL TO PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.

He Desires Only to Enlighten the People Who Have Heard of Camp Horrors.

THE REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT.

HIS Excellency, the President of the United States: Sir—I have the honor to inform you that I am here as Special Commissioner of the New York Journal to report the proceedings of the Investigating Committee appointed by you; and I write to request your permission to attend its sessions.

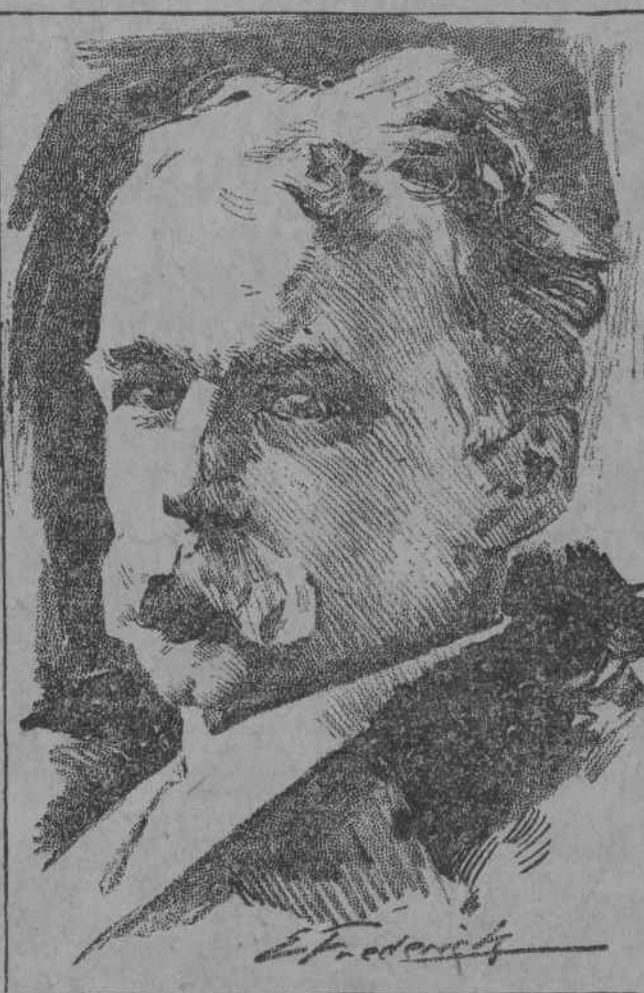
I am aware that the small size of the room in which the Commission meets is made the ground for excluding reporters. I ask you, however, to make an exception in my favor, for the following reasons:

1. A son of my own is a member of one of the volunteer regiments (the Seventy-first New York), which was at Santiago; he took part in the charge up San Juan Hill; afterward contracted yellow fever, and has been near death ever since.

2. My wife and daughter were spending the Summer at East Hampton, near Camp Wikoff, and they and others, friends of ours, frequently visited the camp and have much valuable first-hand testimony to give as to the conditions there, if called before the Commission. I am able to produce these witnesses, if desired.

In addition to these personal circumstances, I beg to say that I am prepared to make an impartial report, on my own responsibility, of the proceedings of the Commission. I respectfully ask your attention to the fact that a large part of the citizens of the country is personally and vitally interested in this investigation, and is not satisfied with the merely formal reports of the stenographers. They desire to have the whole matter placed before them in as graphic and truthful a manner as possible; which can be done only by descriptions and comments which do not enter into Associated Press reports.

You have expressed, sir, the desire that this investigation shall be thorough and impartial. The people are with you in this desire. But I respectfully



JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

No Room for an Impartial Correspondent in the 25 by 25 Room.

suggest that it is not enough that thoroughness and impartiality should be observed; it is more important, if possible, for the purpose in view, that the public should be convinced that they have been observed; and this can be attained only by admitting to the sessions an impartial and independent observer, who will tell the truth as he sees it. Such collateral evidence will be invaluable for the ends you seek, as well as satisfactory to the perfectly legitimate interest and curiosity of the people.

I await your reply, which, together with this communication, will be printed in the columns of the New York Journal, and, meanwhile,

I remain respectfully yours,

JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPLY.

JULIAN HAWTHORNE, ESQ.:

Sir—Your letter of the 5th inst. to the President of the United States has been referred to the Commission for such action as we may deem proper in the premises.

The Commission has carefully considered the rules to govern its sessions, and has arranged to admit representatives from the various press associations, and two representatives from out-of-town correspondents who are located in Washington to gather news for their various papers, and also one representative for the local papers in Washington.

We have received a number of requests to vary this rule, and they have been refused. For this reason we cannot make an exception in your case.

We say to you that the matter touching the special complaint about Camp Wikoff will be fully considered, and that every witness that will throw light on the condition of the soldiers and their treatment there will be examined, and due notice will be given to the public when and where the examination will be held. Very respectfully, GRENVILLE M. DODGE, President.

WHY FEVER TOOK CAMP THOMAS.

Surgeon Giffan Declares Hospital Tents Were Overcrowded and All Sanitary Rules Ignored.

Washington, Oct. 8.—The investigating committee learned of abuses to-day. Surgeon R. Emmet Giffan, in charge of the Sternberg Hospital at Chickamauga Park, was the witness who knew something and was not afraid to tell it. Surgeon Giffan testified to the following state of affairs in the camp at Chickamauga Park, and in the division hospital at that camp.

The camp was laid out too much in the woods. It should have been in the sunlight. Sinks within twenty feet of campfires, when there was plenty of ground removed from company camps, ground where these sinks could have been dug.

Line for use in sinks procurable by officers, notwithstanding the testimony to the contrary.

Crowded hospital tents, without doors, eight and nine sick men being packed in space sufficient only for four to six.

Surgeons without executive ability, and contract surgeons chosen without proper examination.

Thousands of cases of typhoid fever, Sternberg Hospital receiving as many as 120 cases a day, the average during six weeks being 400. Patients suffering from all sorts of disease, and from accidents, crowded into wards with typhoid fever patients. Surgeon Giffan placed on the system in vogue in the medical department.

Surgeon Gets the Blame.

The blame for crowded hospital tents on the surgeon in charge. The blame for crowding all patients in with typhoid sufferers on the commanding officer.

Surgeon Giffan testified as one with authority. The inquiry brought out that the witness was a graduate of the Bellevue Medical College for 1880; that for seven years following he had been engaged in the reported to General Brooke at Chickamauga on July 8.

The first question asked was in regard to the location of the camp. The witness thought it was a mistake to have them in the woods, even with the great amount of clearing out which had been done in the woods. He had been engaged in the military service, and he had authority he had moved the men out into the full sunlight. The next inquiries—and most of them were by Colonel Denby—were in regard to the division hospital, which, the witness said, he had once visited.

"What condition did you find the general hospital in?"

"It was crowded."

"What kind of a hospital. Was it wooden or tents?"

"Tents, without doors."

"What was the date of your visit?"

"From the 17th to the 20th of July, or thereabouts."

"In other respects, how was it?"

"It was not suitable. In the first place it was crowded, and there were no doors."

Tents Were Over-Crowded.

"Indicate to what extent it was overcrowded."

"There were eight or nine men in a tent and under the flies between the tents."

"How many ought there to have been?"

"From four to six; not over six."

"You never visited the hospital but once, and that was at the beginning of the war. How do you account for the crowding?"

"They did not have tentage enough."

"What business was it to get the tents?"

"The surgeon in charge."

"Could he have got the tentage on requisition?"

"I think so. That's the way I have always looked at it. I never had any trouble in getting the things I needed."

"Did you notice any other neglect or irregularity in the hospital?"

"Yes, I went over to see a man who was accidentally shot in the leg, belonging to the Second Kentucky. He was in my brigade. The complaint came back to me that he was in the same tent with men suffering with typhoid fever. I found that that was the case. I made a complaint and asked to have him removed. It was done. I afterwards sent him to Cincinnati. It did not seem to me to be proper to put a surgical case in the same tent with a lot of typhoid fever."

"Connect one of the Commissioners, tried to weaken the testimony of the witness by a discussion of the relative merits of the two camps."

SOME SKILFUL DODGING IN THE WAR INVESTIGATION.

But General Greene Let Slip a Few Facts in Spite of the Coaching of His Inquisitors.

By Julian Hawthorne.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—As representative of the Journal in this war investigation, I am the representative of some millions of American citizens, many of whom have lost members of their families in the camps. All these persons are turned down by General Dodge, or those whom he stands for, in his reply to my letter requesting permission to attend the sessions; and the General does not even think it worth while to tell us why.

The investigations of yesterday and to-day are interesting for opposite reasons: the former because it includes point blank denials of notorious facts, or evasions of them, more or less skilful; the latter because, by some mischance, a witness appeared who ventured to say things that were not at all in line with the whip syllabus we have been heretofore regaled with.

For example, General Greene yesterday, happened to let drop something about "overcrowded transports," but modified the harsh effect of the phrase by the word "inevitable." Did Mr. Denby ask why the overcrowding was inevitable? Not he. He is a member of the Commission. He made haste to relieve the embarrassment of the witness by putting better words in his mouth.

"It was only Providential circumstances that prevented supplies" being available? Poor General Greene assented; but he could not help adding: "Before the difficulties were removed, the troops were all in Manila." They were removed, in plain language. But, "Don't you find" protests Denby, aggrievedly, "that in all wars occasions will arise when the men are deprived for a time of ordinary food?"

Steering a Witness Right.

And, of course, General Greene is able to say that he does "find"—indeed, who ever thought of denying it? "Was everything done that could be done?" persists Denby, determined upon another coating of that inextinguishable whitewash. "I think so," falters the unhappy officer. But again he is constrained to mutter sotto voce. "If we had had a bad quartermaster we should not have got along very well."

One wonders what caused that idea to float into General Greene's mind. And thereupon he begins to say things that show how the strain is telling on him.

"Commissioners issued supplies only according to regulations. Men are hungry because there is no authority to issue rations. Regulations framed for peace do not suit war. Some days pass while a board of survey is sitting on loss of rations, and meanwhile the men have nothing to eat. The regulations are not adapted for troops in campaign work."

"Did the deficiencies occur owing to unforeseen circumstances?" demanded Denby, anxiously, still clinging to his Divine Providence theory. "Not exactly; they are the ordinary circumstances of a campaign," the General is forced to answer.

"This is not what is wanted, he adds: 'The regulations are not framed to provide for emergencies which will inevitably arise in active campaigning,' from which we are to infer that the 'ordinary circumstances of a campaign' and the 'emergencies of active campaigning' are two distinct and different things."

Couldn't Hold Greene Down.

Finally the General bursts out: "For thirty-five years, since the civil war, they have been getting things gradually refined in the regulations, until they have got them down so fine that you can hardly move."

It is needless to observe that the conversation was brought up with a round turn at this point. For aught one could say, the witness might be telling whom he meant by "they" the next moment.

Camp Merritt. In the witness's opinion, was a very bad site, but he obliged his

examiner by adding that he had "never heard" it was selected by collusion with the railway authorities; he "felt sure" it wasn't. He "never heard" that it used to be an old Chinese burying ground; would be "inclined to disbelieve it." He was venturing to say that the transports "were not what they should have been" when the inquisitor headed him off.

How about the green coffee? And when the witness dared to think that green coffee, in tropical clime, was not quite so useful as ground coffee in tin, because the latter could be used, and the former could not, Denby, by a true inspiration of genius, hurried him away to the Russo-Turkish war of twenty years ago. "How do our arrangements compare with those of the Turks and Russians?" At once there is relief all round. Ours are much better than theirs were; and we are regaled with tales of hardships endured while the Turkish army, in the teeth of the enemy, was crossing the Balkans in the dead of winter. There was a parallel with a vengeance!

Patriots Wouldn't Complain.

But before the General could be dismissed he let slip one thing that he ought to have kept back. "Poor men," he said, "appreciated the difficulties, and were very anxious to make the best of things." Yes, General, our War Department owes a great deal, we may be sure, to that heroic, uncomplaining spirit of our men at the front and in camp; we may be sure that whatever whisp of outrages got out must have had a very strong justification indeed. They "made the best of things," but after the best had been made of the things how damnable the things appear!

And let us remember the name of the next witness, Major Henry Blanchard Hersey, of Santa Fe, N. M., of the First Volunteer Cavalry (Rough Riders). All his testimony ought to be printed in large capitals. I will not comment upon it—I cannot—but I subjoin a few extracts.

At Santiago the sickness was chiefly due to the men being unable to take care of themselves. Montauk was the most perfect camp I ever saw," exclaims the Major, his voice choking with enthusiasm. "It was a model camp. I saw no failure to furnish supplies or anything of that kind. The care of the men was first-class. My men have no complaints to make. So far as my experience is concerned the reports of neglect are absolutely unfounded. No soldiers in the history of mankind have been so well cared for. Delicacies were in such quantities we could not begin to use them. The hospitals were the finest I ever saw."

And to conclude: "Tiffany suffered more from the kindness of his friends than anything else."

Major Henry Blanchard Hersey, First Volunteer Cavalry, hailing from Santa Fe, N. M., said these things on oath.

Colonel Lee's Opinion of Volunteers.

It would be an anti-climax to relate how Colonel Lee, with thirty-five years' service, declared that the volunteers "found fault if things were not on tap the moment they were called for," and "wanted everything on earth." He betrayed annoyance at having been interfered with by "junior" in Washington about the arrangements for transportation, but under the awful Rhamdanthian eyes he would not say who the "juniors" were. And then, remembering about the "sons of somebodies," he affirmed very handsomely that he didn't "know of a single instance when the volunteer officers were not gentlemen of character and ability and exceedingly competent in the walks of life which they came from." Is it credible that this simple soldier is capable of covert satire?

Concerning all the testimony up to today, the comments of a certain staff officer, who must, of course, be nameless, are of significance. The testimony of the General, he said, was vague and of little value; it should have been given on the

basis of official statistics from the camps and hospitals. "Though General Lee," adds this critic, "talked so optimistically on the stand, yet as a matter of fact at one time there were about 2,300 sick in hospital and probably 2,600 on sick leave. General Lee was sick himself when he came to Washington. The generals should have been confronted with statistics from the regimental officers, and asked to explain them, or square them with their own testimony. All during the time that General Wheeler was under examination no one asked him about the conference of generals relating to the proposed retreat of the army, or whether the statement made by General Miles, showing gross negligence as to sanitary measures, was correct."

"This all supports what I submitted the other day, and it is evident that what is needed is not so much witnesses who have something to say as examiners who will make them say it. Instead of hurrying them off to the Balkans at the slightest sign of danger."

I will defer remarks suggested by the testimony of Major Giffan until to-morrow. His evidence is an entirely new departure. In a hopeful direction; it does not by any means "gee" with what has preceded it, and I wish we could hope that it might be the forerunner of a great deal more of the same sort. Heaven knows, if the Commission does not, that there is plenty more of the same sort, if it only could be got out.

BELIEVE HUSBAND POISONED HIS WIFE.

Wealthy Kansas Merchant Arrested—He Is Also Suspected of Causing His Daughter's Death.

Lawrence, Kan., Oct. 8.—J. J. Kunkle, a wealthy merchant, has been arrested, charged with having murdered his wife by poisoning her. Mrs. Kunkle died ten days ago.

About four weeks previous to the woman's death Birdie Cominyore, her fourteen-year-old daughter by a former husband, died after a lingering illness, which baffled the family physician. A few days before the death of Mrs. Kunkle she told one of her neighbors that she was being slowly poisoned, and also that her daughter had been poisoned.

An analysis of the woman's stomach showed strong signs of arsenic. Upon this evidence and the testimony of Kunkle's neighbors the jury returned a verdict that Mrs. Kunkle came to her death by poison administered at the hands of her husband "and others to the jury unknown." A former wife of Kunkle is said to have died suddenly after her life had been heavily insured.

POLICE CREDIT HIM WITH 20 WIVES.

They Declare Marrying Was His Means of Livelihood for the Past Twelve Years.

Milwaukee, Oct. 8.—The Milwaukee police have discovered an alleged polygamist, who, they say, has from a dozen to twenty wives. His name is Frederick William Doering, but he has many aliases.

The police have so far reported the names of three wives, but they allege that Doering has been in the marrying business for profit for twelve years, and say there is no telling what is the limit of his list.

Three women who claim Doering as their husband are Maximilliana Sperl, of Baltimore; Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitz, of Milwaukee; and Mrs. Caroline Schneider, formerly of No. 225 Second avenue, New York.

Doering is now said to be a prisoner at the Bridewell, in Chicago. The Milwaukee police have been trying to effect his capture for over a year. Doering's plan was to advertise, stating he was wealthy and desired to join hands with a woman of refined tastes and some means. In each case he is said to have fled after securing what money his newly acquired wife possessed.

"77" for GRIP.

A Hard Cold.

The skilled physician is oftentimes puzzled to determine between La Grippe and a Cold that "hangs on" so close is the resemblance. Hence the simplicity of "Seventy-seven," it being an unailing cure for both Grip and Colds; taken at the first feeling of lassitude "breaks up" the disease.

At druggists or sent prepaid, price 25c, and by large pocket flask, \$1.00. Dr. Humphreys' Med. Co., Cor. William and John Sts., New York. Be sure to get

H-U-M-P-H-R-E-Y-S

CHARLES & MAYER, 633 Fulton St., Brooklyn, Bet. Hudson ave. and Rockwell Place.

Prof. J. A. Lawrence, Station E, N. Y.

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HEAR BOTH SIDES, SAYS WHEELER.

The General Thinks the Commission Should Summon Those Who Have Complained.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—"An opportunity should be given those who have complained to testify before the Investigating Committee. By this I mean the soldiers and others than officers who have grievances. This opportunity I have no doubt will be furnished by the committee, which I think is disposed to make a very thorough examination into the complaints."

This, among other things, was said this afternoon by General Wheeler, in an interview with the Journal. General Wheeler further said:

"In my testimony I took the broad ground that it was a stupendous piece of work to build up an organization of 275,000 men, when our military system provided for only 25,000. I don't know how far the committee has yet gone in the gathering of valuable material, but I think that the result of the work will be valuable in that it will point out what changes may be necessary in order to form a system which can readily adapt itself to a very much enlarged military establishment."

"What do you think of the necessity of a further investigation? For instance, one by Congress?"

"There may be such an investigation and it may go deeper into the merits of the case than the present. I have no objection here this morning, and those with whom I talked thought that my views expressed the facts. But it would be well, as I have said, to have all sides of the case. I am confident that all sides will be given a full and impartial hearing."

Well, I think that would be the proper thing to do. Certainly both sides of it, and all sides of the complaints should be given.

Well, I don't think that very many of the soldiers have grievances. The soldiers with whom I have talked take the same view of it as I do. I saw a regiment here this morning, and those with whom I talked thought that my views expressed the facts. But it would be well, as I have said, to have all sides of the case. I am confident that all sides will be given a full and impartial hearing."

What do you think of the suggestion that those most directly concerned and aggrieved should be called as witnesses?

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